



SOUTHEAST NEWS

April - May 2017

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250

423-2793

Dear Parents,

This month has surely brought its share of unexpected events, both professionally and personally. The passing of Demi Fisher last month continues to be a reminder for us all to live life to its fullest. As we continue to heal as a community, I often find myself reflecting on my appreciation for each of you and my incredible staff. Thank you for rallying around us during this difficult time. The staff was obviously affected, but the ways that they have stepped up their care and support for students (and each other) has been nothing less than spectacular. One of the things that I loved about Demi was the way that her eyes and smile would light up an entire room. Demi had a zest for life and had personality "plus". Demi will be forever in our hearts. I hope you will be able to attend our upcoming luminary night to honor her meaningful life.



Personally, I have been out for the past two weeks with an injury from a sledding accident I had on Horsebarn Hill during one of our snow days. Luckily, my children were not on the sled with me, but instead where there to get me the help I needed. It was our first time sledding there, and while it was fun for a brief time, I'm surprised at how much ligament damage I've done to my legs. I am hopeful to be returning to Southeast again soon. But you may notice when you see me that I'm quite slower than I used to be!

And there was some good news! Southeast School received a special recognition from the State of Connecticut when it named us a School of Distinction for 2015-2016 school year. Secondly, Southeast was reported by Patch.com as a top elementary school in CT, as we were ranked #63. Not too shabby! These two recognitions were given using different data points, both include performance of testing results, but one also includes parent input along with other measures. Take a look if you have a moment. Just another reason to have pride in our school!

This is a link to learn more about The CT School of Distinction Award:
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=334346>

You can read the Patch article here:
<http://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/100-best-public-elementary-schools-connecticut-2017-report>

Respectfully,
 Lauren Rodriguez

Kindergarten

2017-2018 Kindergarten Registration

Children turning 5 years old on or before January 1, 2018 are eligible to enroll for Kindergarten for the 2017- 2018 school year.

There will be an informational meeting for parents on
Thursday, April 6th from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Please contact Mrs. Murphy in the office if you are planning on attending the meeting.
 (860) 423-2793 Ext 0

Calendar of Events

Apr. 4.....	3:30-4:50 Math Lab 3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 3-4 (make up day)	
Apr. 5.....	3:45-4:45 Chess Club (make up day)	
Apr. 6.....	3:30-4:50 Math Lab	
Apr. 7.....	2:00-3:20 Enrichment Clusters 3:30-4:45 Running Club	
Apr. 10-14....	NO SCHOOL- April Vacation	
Apr. 17.....	6:30- Southeast PTO meeting	
Apr. 18.....	3:30-4:50 Math Lab 3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 1-2 FIRST DAY	
Apr. 20.....	3:45-5:00 Green Thumbs Club 3:30-4:50 Math Lab	
Apr. 21.....	2:00-3:20 Enrichment Clusters 3:30-4:45 Running Club 6:00-8:00 Laps of Love for Demi	
Apr. 25.....	3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 1-2	
Apr. 28.....	2:00-3:20 Enrichment Clusters 3:30-4:45 Running Club	
May 1-12.....	Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing	
May 2.....	3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 1-2	
May 4.....	6:00 First & Second Grade Concert	
May 5.....	2:00-3:20 Enrichment Clusters- LAST DAY 3:30-4:45 Running Club	
May 9.....	3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 1-2 LAST DAY	
May 12.....	3:30-4:45 Running Club	
May 15.....	6:30- Southeast PTO meeting	
May 18.....	3:45-5:00 Green Thumbs Club- LAST DAY	
May 19.....	3:30-4:45 Running Club 6:00- Family Game Night	
May 22.....	12:45- 3 rd Grade Science Program (tentative date)	
May 24.....	Field Trip to Theater Works, Hartford- Pete the Cat (Kindergarten classes, 4-Core & 3-Hendricks)	
May 26.....	3:30-4:45 Running Club	
May 29.....	NO SCHOOL- Memorial Day	
May 30.....	3 rd Gr. Field Trip to Mystic Seaport	
June 2.....	3:30-4:45 Running Club- LAST DAY	
June 3.....	9:00- KidsMarathon at E.O. Smith	
June 5.....	3 rd Grade Field Trip to Nathan Hale 6:30- Southeast PTO meeting	
June 21.....	Proposed Last Day of School.	

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy

Come Join The Fun!

Southeast Enrichment Clusters

Fridays this Spring from 2:00-3:20
April 7, 21, 28, and May 5, 12

Enrichment Clusters are workshops held during the school day for multi-aged groups of students who share a common interest. Students will remain in the same cluster each week and try out what a professional in their topic area does.

We want to thank all the parents who were able to volunteer to help after receiving the enrichment cluster letter sent home a few weeks ago. **CAN YOU HELP?** We still need more parents and community members to help out with enrichment clusters this spring. You can help one or more weeks by assisting presenters, gathering materials, taking photographs or helping students find their workshop room. If you would like to participate in any way or if you have any questions, please contact Susan Irvine at Southeast 423-2793 ext. 7622 or through email: irvinesb@mansfieldct.org. Thank you.

First & Second Grade Spring Concert

Where: Southeast Gymnasium

When: Thursday, May 4th

Concert begins at 6:30 pm

Students, please arrive at 6:15 pm

Who: All 1st and 2nd grade students and families

What: This concert will allow the students to share the songs and musical concepts they have been learning in general music classes with their families. The Southeast Songbirds, the new first and second grade choir, will also perform in this concert.

What to Wear: When performing as musicians at a concert we dress professionally in dress clothes.

- Boys and Girls— please wear nice pants, a dress shirt, tie (optional), skirt, dress, and dress shoes
- No jeans, sneakers, or shirts with writing.

Mark your calendars and I look forward to seeing everyone on May 4th!

Musically,
Miss Smallidge
smallidgek@mansfieldct.org



To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days, and..... of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year:

President.....Kimberly Christenson
Vice President.....Susan Cote
Secretary.....Sheralyn Sibilia
Treasurer.....Noreen Halbrooks

Read Across America Day

To celebrate Read Across America Day, students enjoyed hearing stories from guest readers.



Science Fair and Invention Convention



The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, March 8th. We were so pleased to see so many Southeast families came to support almost 70 student scientists and inventors and to celebrate their hard work and creativity!

Each student who participated received a ribbon and a certificate at the end of the evening. Our judges selected two inventors to represent Southeast School at the Regional Invention Convention on Sunday, April 9th at Goodwin College.

Victoria Forrest in Mrs. Core's 4th grade class for her White Board Table invention—a table that is wood on one side and flips to a white board on the other.

Nicole Zhu in Mrs. Core's 4th grade class for her Zipper Bottle invention—a way to reuse water bottles by gluing a zipper between two trimmed bottles to store supplies.

Congratulations to these students and all who participated at Science Night! Thank you to all families who helped their children with their projects and to all the teachers and staff who supported this event.



Ask Mrs. Doyle...

Dear Mrs. Doyle,

My third and fourth grade children have been talking about Reading Workshop a lot this year. What is it?

Signed,
Curious in Mansfield, Connecticut

Dear Curious,

That's a great question! Reading Workshop is the term for one component of the balanced literacy approach in 3rd and 4th grade. The approach is in alignment with our district's mission and framework and it is based on research by Lucy Calkins, Richard Allington, and many others. Reading Workshop incorporates techniques and methods the teachers were already using with some new, strategic, elements. Acknowledging the evidence that the more time students spend reading books that are both appropriate for them and engaging, the better their reading skills will become, we have included more time for independent, self-selected reading during the day. This reading is supported through whole class explicit lessons, small groups, and 1:1 student-teacher reading conferences. Reading Workshop is a practice that supports student-centered learning and promotes gradual release of responsibility with the teacher modeling how to achieve a skill and coaching students to independently practice the skill.

A typical 60 minute Reading Workshop at the 3rd and 4th grade level is divided into these parts:

- 10-15 minutes - whole class lesson on a specific skill and strategy
- 35-45 minutes - independent reading time, which includes small groups, 1:1 conferences, some partner work and book clubs
- 5 minutes - sharing of how students applied reading skills during the workshop time



Next year, the kindergarten, first, and second grades will officially begin implementing Reading Workshop as part of their balanced literacy program. There will be many similarities to what is described above, but it will be modified to be appropriate for each grade level.

Let me know if you would like more information or if you have any further questions! I am very excited to share about the Reading Workshop approach. The students have been enjoying it!

Fondly,
Amanda Doyle, Literacy Coach

Have a question you'd like answered? Please email me at doylear@mansfieldct.org and I'll reply to you directly or answer your question in the newsletter (no names attached).

CAS Celebration of the Arts Award Recipients

On Tuesday, February 7, 2017 The Connecticut Association of Schools held their 18th Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts Dinner at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT. Southeast 4th grade Suzuki students, Danielle Byun and Amanda Schweitzer were recognized for their outstanding citizenship, cooperative skills and artistic ability in performing at the elementary level. The evening consisted of a wonderful buffet dinner, art centered activities and a special awards presentation.

Congratulations to Danielle and Amanda!



Lyme Disease - Still a Concern

Lyme disease is an infectious disease that can cause arthritis as one of its symptoms. The infection occurs when a deer tick that is infected with the spirochete bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* bites a human and transmits the bacteria to the human. The bacteria usually produces a rash and mild flu-like symptoms are often not noticed or are ignored by the person. After weeks and months of untreated infection, more symptoms may develop, including heart and nervous system problems and arthritis.

Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotic treatment. If the disease is caught early, treatment does not take too long and is very successful. If the disease has gone on for a long time before antibiotics are begun, treatment may take a while and it can take months for the symptoms to clear up.

Anyone who is bitten by an infected tick can develop Lyme disease. Ticks in different sections of the United States and Europe are most likely to be carrying the bacteria. Endemic areas of the United States include the northeastern, middle Atlantic and north central states, as well as some areas of the north Pacific coast. Children tend to get Lyme disease more often than adults because they tend to play in the tall grass and woods where ticks live.

For more information and tips on prevention and how to remove ticks, log on to www.arthritis.org.

(information courtesy of www.arthritis.org)

Spring Plant Sale to Benefit Southeast PTO



The greenhouse is operating and seedlings have been planted. Be on the lookout for the plant sale towards the end of May. There will be a variety of vegetable and some flowers as well. All proceeds to benefit the Southeast PTO. Thank you to Mr. Hanka and the parent volunteers who are making this all possible.